Highlight Cells Containing Formulas

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In designing and auditing spreadsheets, I'd like to distinguish visually between cells containing formulas and those containing values. I want to use a suitable function in a conditional format, but I can't identify a function that returns this information. What's the best way to do this?

Gene Tatsch

Conditional formatting won't help you here, but there's an easy way to format all cells that contain formulas manually. First, select the entire range of cells and apply the format you want to use for cells without formulas. With the range still selected, choose *Go To* from the *Edit* menu and click on the *Special* button. In the *Go To Special* dialog (see Figure 1), check the *Formulas* box, and click on *OK.* All cells containing formulas will be highlighted, regardless of whether they form a continuous area (Figure 2). Right-click on any one of them, choose *Format Cells,* and apply the desired formatting. You must repeat this process if you change the contents of the cells.
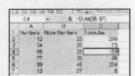

Figure 2

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Figure 2
The three cells that contain formulas are formatted differently.

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C4 ▾ *fx* =SUM(B5:B7)

	A	B	C	D
1	Numbers	More Numbers	Formulas	
2	12	23	290	
3	34	25	73	
4	55	25	159	
5	77	36	66	
6	99	46	234	
7	13	77	5	